

**Professional Advisory Committee  
of the  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Location:** Monmouth County Human Services Building,  
3000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, New Jersey

**Date:** July 20, 2012

**Attendance:** Linda Chapman, Anthony Comerford, Connie Greene, Philip Horowitz, Barry Johnson, Diane Litterer, Susan Neshin, Alan Oberman, Dharmesh Parikh, Jass Pelland, Michael Santillo, Barbara Schlichting, Sue Seidenfeld, Megan Sullivan, Maria Varnavis-Robinson, Linda Voorhis, Ernestine Winfrey

**State Staff:** Andrea Connor, Vicki Fresolone, Mollie Greene, Raquel Jeffers, Geralyn Molinari, Dona Sinton

**PAC Business**

Jass Pelland opened the meeting and the group did introductions.

**Announcements**

- Raquel announced that DMHAS did receive a SAMHSA Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) grant award effective July 1, 2012. Grant funds will be used for the SBIRT in primary care and hospital setting and work to make a case to turn codes on for Medicaid. An RFP for a partner agency is forthcoming.
- On July 24, 2012 there will be a bidder's conference for the Drug Court Request for Proposal (RFP) that is currently out.
- Yesterday the Governor signed a bill to make Drug Court treatment mandatory for nonviolent offenders. Currently in SFY 2013 a \$2.5 million appropriation in the AOC budget has been allocated for the expansion. This includes \$1 million for treatment.
- DMHAS is applying for an Administration for Children and Families grant for a family supportive housing model, working with the Department of Children and Families. Three partners for were selected through an open public process for the grant (Eva's Village, UMDNJ/UBHC and Center for Great for Expectations)
- The Behavioral Health Home State Plan Amendment is getting closer to being ready and we think the concept paper will go to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in September.

- Under healthcare reform, the State will need to choose one of the following benchmark options to use as a model when determining the package of benefits to offer to newly-eligible adults:
  - The standard Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan option in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP);
  - A health plan that is offered and generally available to state employees in the state; or
  - The largest non-Medicaid Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in the state.

In addition to the above options, a state can design its own package of benefits, called “benchmark-equivalent” benefits, that is actuarially equivalent to one of the benchmark options, or it can choose any coverage approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. HHS has given states a September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 deadline for choosing a benchmark plan for their individual and small group commercial insurance markets.

- DHS/DMHAS is reviewing proposals from actuarial firms to do the rate setting work for the ASO.

### **Status of PAC discussion - What are your thoughts on continuing to meet as a PAC?**

In light of the numerous committees that are convened and the merger, do members want to continue to meet as a PAC?

There was an overwhelming acknowledgement from the membership that the PAC does need to stay active and involved, focused on addiction specific issues, as the merged groups do not offer the same in depth discussion on addictions issues. The group agreed that perhaps the PAC does not need to meet monthly but every other month instead.

As such, the group will continue. Appointments to the group are expiring in the fall, so it was decided to solicit for new members to fill the vacancies. Existing members who are interested in remaining members must submit a letter of interest by August 10 to DMHAS, and a formal application process will be posted online to fill the remaining vacancies (up to 30 members per bylaws). In addition, a nominating committee will be convened to review the submitted applications, and a bylaws committee will be convened to update/amend bylaws this fall.

### **Presentation on Stakeholder’s Report**

Mollie Greene gave an overview of the ASO Steering Committee Report, which is posted on the website at

[http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/home/mbho/Stakeholder\\_final\\_report\\_june15\\_2012.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/home/mbho/Stakeholder_final_report_june15_2012.pdf)

A discussion ensued regarding the report.

Next meeting September 21, 2012 at 10 am